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## SAXIFRAGA AIZOON IN NEW HAMPSHIRE\*

Saxifraga Aizoön Jacq. is an arctic-montane, amphi-Atlantic rock plant of Europe, Iceland, Greenland and North America<sup>1</sup>. In eastern North America the species, represented by var. neogaea Butters, ranges southward into cold localities of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine (Mt. Katahdin), Vermont, and northern New York<sup>2</sup>. The plant has not been reported previously from New Hampshire<sup>3</sup>. On 20 July 1939 I found a colony of Saxifraga Aizoön, numbering about 80 flowering plants, in a deep chasm cut by glacial action into the flank of Mt. Washington, Coös County, New Hampshire. Most of the plants grew in a nearly horizontal fissure in a vertical rock wall of impres-

'HULTEN, E. 1958. The amphi-Atlantic plants and their phytogeographic connections. Kungl. Svensk. Vetensk. Handl. IV. 7: 1-340. <sup>2</sup>FERNALD, M. L. 1950. Gray's Manual of Botany, Ed. 8. American Book Co., New York. 1632 p.

<sup>3</sup>PEASE, A. S. 1964. A Flora of Northern New Hampshire. New England Botanical Club, Inc. v + 278 p.

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#### Rhodora

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sive height. The precipice faced northward, and thus was shaded most of the day. The fissure collected moisture from films of water seeping down the rock from above. The locality, at an altitude of about 3,500 ft, is often shrouded in cloud.

Saxifraga Aizoön is generally a calciphile. Hence it is surprising that it should grow anywhere on the Presidential Range in New Hampshire where limestone is unknown<sup>4</sup>. In an area as well botanized as Mt. Washington it is remarkable that the species could have remained this long undiscovered.

I obtained five plants from crowded colonies, taking great care to prevent uprooting adjacent rosettes. The collection was donated recently to the Beal-Darlington Herbarium of Michigan State University, and one plant has been shared with the New England Botanical Club Herbarium.

<sup>4</sup>BILLINGS, M. P. et al. 1946. Geology of the Mt. Washington Quadrangle, New Hampshire. Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer. 57: 261-274, 1 pl.

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# THE SAXIFRAGA AIZOÖN STATION REVISITED

The report by Dr. Churchill of Saxifraga Aizoön on Mt. Washington was so surprising that three of us decided to make an investigation. On July 29, 1967; A. R. Hodgdon, James Teeri, a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire, and I made a trip into Huntington Ravine. We were equipped with a good pair of field glasses but no rockclimbing gear. After some careful but fruitless searching we eventually located the Saxifraga well up on a cliff by means of field glasses. The plants were in full bloom and the colony appeared to be in the same condition as described by Churchill. After careful checking with a topographic map it appeared to us the elevation was close to 4500 ft. Naturally we were eager to examine the colony at close range and with some effort were able to reach a point about